

and direct them in the practice of their profession. State laws mostly follow the national lead and some of them go further in the stupid attempt to cure physically, mentally, and socially sick citizens and control those who are licensed to serve them intelligently by restrictive but nevertheless amazingly productive revenue measures; but when it comes to dealing with the really big problems of the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of these dangerous poisons, enthusiasm even for revenue is not so noticeable.

There are honest and dishonest merchants interested in the narcotic drug business. Honest ones are necessary because honest production and marketing of narcotics for necessary purposes is great, world-wide, and must be maintained. With a solace for their miseries, discomforts, and longings before their minds, the patient with his physical pains, the mentally defective with his lopsided ego, the social failure with his longings, the morally submerged with her diseases and her conscience, the would-be criminal with his cowardice, the flotsam and jetsam, the unstable, the weary, remorseful and what-not, all cry out for the relief they believe "drugs" can give them—and never mind the penalty; that, they realize in a vague way, they must pay. So long as these conditions obtain, there will be plenty of men who will risk prisons for their bodies and hell for their souls to supply markets for the profits they may have.

Thus we see briefly that the problem of drug addiction is a many-faceted one, and that its limitation requires battle all along the long and devious road between the poppy fields, the coco groves, the synthesizing laboratories, and consumers—consumers everywhere in all walks of life, in all conditions of physical, mental, social solvency. Any intelligent constructive campaign must recognize that: (a) Certain quantities of these drugs are essential in the relief of suffering and the treatment of disease; (b) drug addicts are of as many varieties as are other individuals, and they may be intelligently succored only as individuals by individualistic methods. As Chairman W. C. Woodward of the American Medical Association Narcotic Committee has so well expressed it: "So far as the narcotic drug supply is concerned, the problem may be national and even international; but so far as the addict is concerned it is individualistic, and we are confronted with the task of mapping out a program that will cover the entire field and yet permit us to handle addicts as persons."

(To be continued in the June issue)

The Life Extension Institute in a recent advertisement states that heart disease, kidney disease, apoplexy, cancer, and tuberculosis are preventable diseases. This statement is partly true, but it is very largely untrue and much harm may result from allowing the public to believe that it is entirely true. Certain types of heart disease such as those due to syphilis are largely preventable, and we wish that we could prevent such types as the rheumatic and the arteriosclerotic, and perhaps occasionally we can, but it is only occasionally. To some degree we may prevent kidney disease, but our knowledge is decidedly too imperfect to allow us to make such conclusive statements in honesty to ourselves and our patients. Given arteriosclerosis, the prevention of which is in the shadowy borderland of knowledge, we can never with certainty predict freedom from the dangers of apoplexy. Early cancer may be cured, but it cannot be prevented. Tuberculosis alone offers some hopes of becoming a preventable disease, although even with this infectious condition our effort will often be met with failure. The health examination is most decidedly a worthy objective, but in all honesty let us recognize its limitations even as we proclaim its virtues.—Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, March 25, 1926.

"From pillar to post," or in cruder vernacular, "passing the buck," has a meaning requiring no explanation. It is associated with the group plan of practice more than when responsibility is shouldered by the individual. This shelving of responsibility is one of the worst features in hospitals. It is bad for the patient, worse for the nurse, inexcusable for the physician, and a wretched quality of medicine.—Hugh Auchincloss (Journal A. M. A.).

"TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE 'COMMON DOCTOR'"

Thou shalt have no favorites in newspaper correspondents in order to see thy name in print.

Thou shalt not bow down to graft, nor to the image of gold.

Thou shalt hold thy tongue when sued for malpractice, remembering silence is golden and that thy adversary is after thy gold and will get it if thou art not discreet.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy; six days shalt thou labor and on the seventh also, if thou hast an opportunity to do good or the prospect of a good fee.

Honor the fathers of thy profession, that thy days may be long upon the land and thy usefulness lengthened, through the example and achievements of thy fathers.

Thou shalt not sanction adultery nor produce an abortion.

Thou shalt not steal thy brother's patients nor forgive him when he steals thine.

Thou shalt not kill thy brother's opportunity for earning a living, nor murder his chance of usefulness. He, probably, is thy superior.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor, nor speak evil of his good name. His reputation may be better than thine.

Thou shalt not covet the specialist's fee, nor dispute over a division. Let him have all the money; he may think he earned it. You must be content with glory.

—W. W. Brown, Virginia Medical Monthly.

Chiropractic Not Harmless—A decision by the Supreme Court of Illinois relating to chiropractic has brought out a new answer to the claims of chiropractors and practitioners of similar methods. The defendants in the case argued that practice of chiropractic was "a useful and harmless calling which cannot be regulated by the state." This claim was declared to be so entirely without merit that any discussion of it was unnecessary. The decision went on to state, however, that "if a chiropractor can, by manipulation, move a dislocated vertebra so that the pressure on a nerve can be relieved and paralysis cured, he can by the same process dislocate a vertebra and cause a paralyzed condition. Any method of treating human ailments which, when practiced skilfully, can restore a diseased human body to health is capable of doing great harm when practiced without care or skill. A method of treating human ailments cannot be both useful and harmless. If it is sufficiently efficacious to be useful, it is at the same time capable of producing harmful results." The chiropractor, no less than the physician or anyone else who is to treat the sick, needs to have a sufficient training in the fundamentals of medicine so that he will know at least when his manipulation may be harmful.—Journal A. M. A., February 13, 1926.

Since I began the study of medicine, I have devoted myself chiefly to a careful examination of the most valuable modern treatises. In this particular I differ, I know, from you, who are a profound scholar; but my books have always been few, though I hope well chosen. When I was at the university, a few vials, a skeleton, and an herbal, chiefly formed my library. By following the dictates of common sense, while I practiced at Oxford after taking my bachelor of medicine's degree, instead of stoving up my patients who were ill of the smallpox, as was done by the Galenists of those days, I gave them air and cooling emulsions, and thus rescued more than a hundred from the grave.—The Gold-Headed Cane.

"Maternity Bill will Make a Midwife out of Uncle Sam": The allowance of the \$1,000,000 for hygienic, maternity, and infancy work under the Sheppard-Towner Maternity Act, as proposed in the pending Department of Labor appropriation bill, will make Uncle Sam "the midwife for every expectant mother in the country and the wet nurse for the nation's babies," according to Representative Tucker. "I am against the Government appropriating any money to any function which properly belongs to the individual states."—Chicago Tribune.